

**Ute MICHEL**

BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN, Germany

**Candidacy for Treasurer in the EGP Committee**

EGP Council meeting in Tampere, November 2019



Dear EGP Member Parties,  
Dear Council Delegates,

Standing for the post of Treasurer in the EGP Committee election, I bring to the role a long involvement with EGP finances, structures and political discussions and an in-depth understanding of two Green Parties (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN and Green Party of England and Wales) at different stages of development and electoral standing.

As a member of the EGP's Finance Advisory Board (FAB) since 2011, I have - together with my respective two colleagues - advised the Treasurer and Committee in all financial and financially relevant organisational matters and have regularly reported to the Council. This involves accompanying the annual budget cycle (including budget setting, in-year financial monitoring, closing of accounts/annual financial report) as well as advising on, for example, internal financial procedures and staff structures/staffing requirements and participating in working groups aimed at improving the financial stability of the EGP.

All of this happened in a period of substantial political and organisational development for the EGP and amidst ever-present financial challenges and changes in funding requirements from the European Parliament. I am proud of having been part of developing FAB during this time into an established and well-functioning body as part of the statutory set-up of the EGP and very much hope and support that it continues to develop in the future.

I joined the Green Party of England and Wales (GPEW) in 2005 when living in London and over the following eight years became very involved in the party at local, regional and national levels including a term as a local councillor (2006-2010), standing as No. 2 on the London regional list in the 2009 European election and as a GPEW delegate to EGP Councils from 2008-2011.

In a country without state funding for political parties and an electoral system that puts small parties at a huge disadvantage, getting the Green message out to people on an ongoing basis and running election campaigns were an enormous effort – with very limited prospects of actually being able to put policies into practice by getting elected. Being a Green activist in such circumstances required and created a commitment to the cause that was beyond anything I had experienced before. And building capacity and developing the party at the various levels in spite of all this put new meaning into the expression “an uphill struggle” for me.

Having moved back to Germany in 2013 for family reasons, I transferred my enthusiasm to Bündnis 90/Die Grünen and experienced a very different but equally real set of challenges around implementing policies, compromises and red lines, the dynamics of varying

electoral success and the consequences for external perceptions and internal debate. Amongst other things, I am now a local councillor again in my small home town in a rural area and joint co-ordinator of the standing Working Group on Labour, Social Policy and Health at national level (the party's internal policy think tank) as well as a member of the elected internal audit team for the national party.

In addition to this, I would bring to the Committee a professional background in international NGO management and public sector administration. I have a high regard for processes and structures as they provide a reliable common ground for all, and I have a track record of finding compromises and sound solutions. With a strong interest in Eastern Europe since university and having lived and worked in Brussels, Ferney-Voltaire/France and London, I am committed to the concept of the European Green Party family with member parties within and outside the EU.

Looking ahead, in terms of EGP finances I see the main challenge in making sure that we achieve an increasing amount of own resources necessary for EU funding on a stable basis, with a mid-term perspective to the next European elections in 2024 (with FAB I am a member of the current working group on membership fees). This is linked to an efficient use of resources and appropriate human resources to implement future EGP activities and priorities.

In all this my passion for finances is only a means to an end: Considering the enormous transformation processes required to maintain human life on this planet, we need to continue promoting a joint vision of a fairer and more sustainable future at European level. And acknowledging the diversity of our member parties and their different needs and expectations, we need to continue and find new ways of supporting their capacity building at all levels and enhancing their own work.

I would cherish the opportunity to be part of discussing the best way forward on this in the Committee and with all of you in the Council and contribute my experience and skills to this big team effort. As I have done in other roles, I would give my very best if elected Treasurer and I am asking for your support in the Committee election in Tampere.

If you have any questions or for further information please feel free to contact me by mail: [ute.michel@gruene.de](mailto:ute.michel@gruene.de)

phone: +49-5281-620 74 66

mobile: +49-176-55 91 10 55

Kind regards,

Ute